REMARKS

Pending in the present application are claims 1-31, of which claims 1, 12, 21, and 29 are independent claims. The Office Action mailed on January 5, 2006 set forth an election requirement, requiring Applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution. The Office Action identifies the species as: (A) using a "low moment" magnetic material for the "magnetic element", and (B) using a "high coercivity, high permeability" magnetic material for the "magnetic element." Applicant provisionally elects species (A). Claims 1-7, 12-18, and 21-30 read on species (A). Applicants withdraw claims 8-11, 19-20, and 31, which are drawn to species (B), from further consideration.

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 and 29 are considered generic to species (A) and (B). Applicant submits that claim 12 is also generic to species (A) and (B). Claim 12 recites a pair of magnetic poles separated by a gap for writing data to a magnetic medium, and means for forming at least a portion of one of the poles for reducing side writing at that pole. Claim 12 reads on both species (A) and (B), and as such, is a generic claim.

The Office Action presented issues relating to the claims in an effort to advance the prosecution of the present application. (See item 5 on page 4 of the Office Action mailed on January 5, 2006.) Claims 1, 21-22, and 29 have been preliminarily amended to address the issues presented by the Office Action. Claim 20 has been preliminarily amended to correct a typographical error.

Applicants believe the present application containing claims 1-31 is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 2/6/06

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